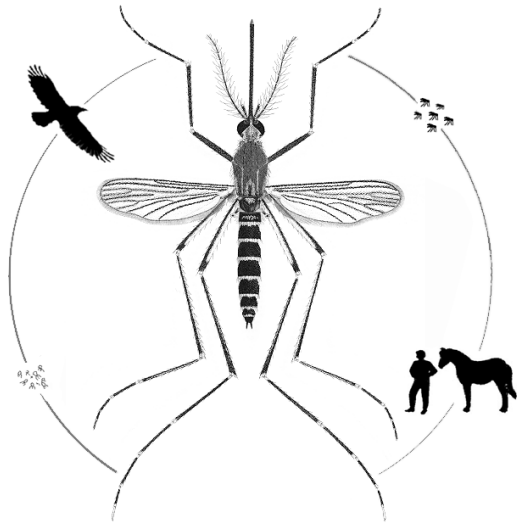


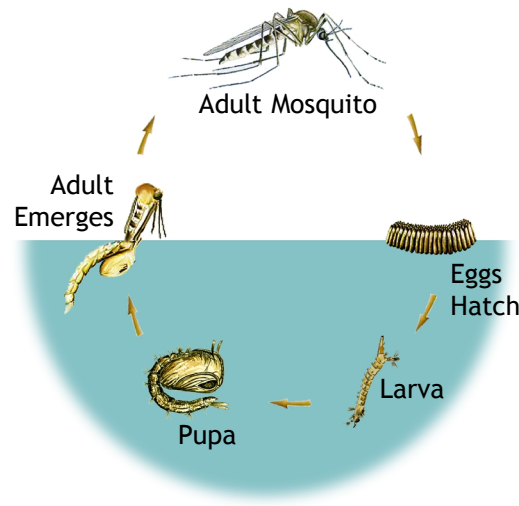
## DISEASE TRANSMISSION

Many types of viruses have been isolated from mosquitoes in nature. Fortunately, only a few are of concern in the United States. It should be noted that mosquitoes cannot transmit all viruses. For example, the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), which causes AIDS in humans, doesn't survive in mosquitoes, and therefore cannot be transmitted when they bite. In general, mosquito-borne virus transmission cycles are complicated and may involve birds and/or other animals. Human cases of mosquito-borne viruses typically occur late in the summer. It takes time for mosquito populations to increase, and for the virus to build up in bird populations to the point where it might be picked up by human-biting mosquitoes. Finally, additional time is needed for infected mosquitoes to transmit the virus to humans and other mammals.



Mosquitoes belonging to the genus *Culex* are the primary vectors of WNV. The larvae are commonly found in polluted water collecting in roadside ditches, catch basins, artificial containers such as tires, and in swimming pools that are in a state of disuse.

## The Mosquito Life Cycle



Mosquitoes need water to breed and grow.

Almost anything that holds water for one week or longer can produce these pests. To eliminate mosquito problems, eliminate any standing water on your property.

- Dispose of unwanted containers that can hold water (tires, bottles, cans, buckets, barrels, etc.).
- Empty or cover swimming or wading pools when not in use.
- Change water in bird baths and troughs weekly.
- Keep roof gutters and drainage ditches cleared out so water does not collect and sit in them.

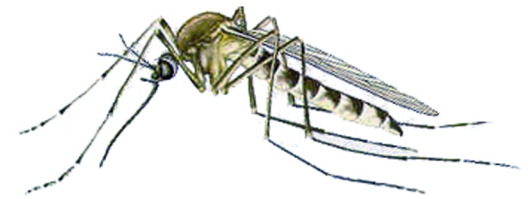
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*For additional information regarding the public health aspects of WNV, please contact your personal physician or local health department.*

~  
*For more information regarding mosquitoes, their biology or their control contact:*

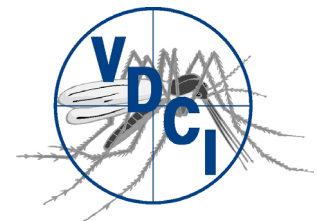
Vector Disease Control, Inc.  
1455 Mt. Washburn St.  
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1-800-413-4445  
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# WEST NILE VIRUS



**Know the Facts • Protect Yourself**

Vector Disease Control, Inc.  
1455 Mt. Washburn St.  
Driggs, Idaho  
83422





# IMPORTANT FACTS

## WHAT IS WEST NILE VIRUS (WNV)?

West Nile virus (WNV) is a mosquito-borne virus that can be transmitted by the bite of an infected mosquito. WNV is and is closely related to St. Louis encephalitis (SLE) virus. SLE virus is most prevalent in the southeastern and midwestern United States. However, WNV can be found throughout the United States.



## HOW DOES WNV SPREAD?

Mosquitoes can become infected with WNV by feeding on birds that have the virus in their bloodstream. Once a mosquito is infected with the virus it can transmit the virus to humans, birds, horses or other mammals through a bite.

## CAN I GET WNV DIRECTLY FROM CROWS OR OTHER PEOPLE?

There is no evidence to date suggesting that humans can get WNV by touching a dead bird. However, it is strongly suggested for general sanitary reasons that you use protective gloves when handling any sick or injured bird. WNV is NOT transmitted from person to person.



*Published with consent of the  
Monmouth County Mosquito Extermination Commission*

## IF AN INFECTED MOSQUITO BITES ME HOW LONG WOULD IT TAKE TO DEVELOP SYMPTOMS?



Most people bitten by infected mosquitoes do not develop any symptoms. However when symptoms of infection do occur, they usually appear 5-15 days from the time you were bitten.

## WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS OF WNV INFECTION?

Most people who are infected show no or only mild symptoms such as: low-grade fever, headache, and occasionally swollen lymph glands. More severe signs and symptoms can include: high fever, stiff neck, muscle weakness, disorientation, brain inflammation (encephalitis), coma and, rarely, death.

## WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I THINK I HAVE BEEN INFECTED WITH WEST NILE VIRUS?

Contact your family physician.

## HOW IS WNV TREATED?

There is no specific treatment for WNV. In more severe cases, patients are treated with supportive therapy, which can include hospitalization, intravenous (IV) fluids and respiratory support.

## IF I LIVE IN AN AREA WITH POSITIVE BIRDS AND MOSQUITOES WILL I GET WNV?

In most areas, people rarely get WNV. Even in areas where mosquitoes do carry the virus very few mosquitoes are infected (less than 1%). If the mosquito is infected, less than 1% of people who get bitten and become infected will get severely ill. The chances that you will become severely ill from any one mosquito bite are extremely small.

## CONTROL & PREVENTION



## WHAT CAN I DO TO REDUCE MY RISK OF GETTING WNV?

1. Wear long pants and long sleeved shirts when outdoors particularly at dawn & dusk.
2. Make sure screens on windows and doors are in good condition.
3. Use mosquito repellent when outdoors. Be sure to use according to the label—less than 10% DEET for children.
4. Eliminate standing water, old tires, cans and blocked gutters from your property.
5. Maintain your swimming pools. Empty or cover swimming pools when not in use.
6. Keep birdbaths clean. Change the water at least once a week.
7. Report mosquito concerns to your local mosquito control office.

Contact your local mosquito control office for more information about mosquitoes and how you can best control them.